

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 12, 20, and 23 have been amended. Supports for these amendments can be found at paragraphs 23 and 24 of the US patent application publication 2004/0140578A1). Claims 6,11,19, 22 and 26 have been cancelled. After these amendments, 16 claims pending are pending.

Rejection of Claims 11, 22 and 26 under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 11, 22 and 24 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Publication WO 99/20455. The rejection of claims 11, 22 and 26 are moot in view of the cancellation of these three claims.

Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 20, 21 and 23-25 under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 20, 21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winterton et al. -929. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cited reference ('929) does not disclose nor teach all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. The cited reference ('929) does disclose nor suggestion anything about the masking collar has an inner diameter adapted to fit in close engagement with the transmissive portion; the masking collar generally resembles a washer or a doughnut, with a center hole for receiving the transmissive portion, wherein the transmission portion is pressed into the center opening of the masking collar and the masking collar is mounted within a bushing sleeve recited in the currently amended claims 1, 6, 9-11, 20, 21 and 23-26.

In sum, the claims 1, 6, 9-11, 20, 21 and 23-26 as currently amended are clearly not anticipated by the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of 35 U.S.C §102(e) rejection.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Winterton et al. -929. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8 are directly or indirectly dependent on the currently amended claim 1. As such, the cited reference ('929) does not render the claims 7 and 8 obvious. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of 35 U.S.C §103(a) rejection.

Claims 3,12 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Winterton et al. -929 in view of Ford (see col.3, line 62 through col.4, line31). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cited primary reference ('929) neither discloses nor teaches all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. The cited reference ('929) neither discloses nor suggests anything about masking collar has an inner diameter adapted to fit in close engagement with the transmissive portion; the masking collar generally resembles a washer or a doughnut, with a center hole for receiving the transmissive portion, wherein the transmission portion is pressed into the center opening of the masking collar and the masking collar is mounted within a bushing sleeve, wherein the masking collar prevents curing in the masked portions of the mold, and more precisely defines the edge of the molding formed beneath the interface of the masked and transmissive portions as recited in the current claims 3,12 and 15-19. The secondary reference (Ford) cannot fill the gaps left by the primary reference.

In sum, applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Winterton ('929) in view of Ford et al US 6,551,531 B1 do not render the current claims 3,12 and 15-19 obvious. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the 35 USC § 102 and 103 rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that the pending claims are neither anticipated by nor obvious over the cited references, either individually or in combination. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set-forth in the Office Action.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



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